Levy paid to BSNL

2111. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some private operators have paid whopping amount as levy to BSNL on dispute on fixed wireless phone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for charging this amount;

(c) whether some companies have opposed the demand to deposit levy from retrospective effect; and

(d) what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The private telephone operators namely M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. (TTL), M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. (TTML) and M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL) were asked by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to pay Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) including Access Deficit Charges as per the terms and conditions of the Interconnect Agreement for wrong handover of traffic from Wireless in Local Loop (Limited Mobile) services network to BSNL on ports meant for traffic originated from fixed/ wireline services network. BSNL has raised supplementary bills for approximately Rs. 207.6 crores to M/s Tata Teleservices including TTML and Rs. 183.6 crores to M/s RIL. These operators have disputed the claim of BSNL.

(c) M/s TTL, M/s TTML and M/S RIL had challenged the action of BSNL in Hon'ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) where there petitions were dismissed. Subsequently they challenged the judgements of Hon'ble TDSAT in the Hon'ble Supeme Court of India. The case is still *sub-judice* in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

As per interim order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. and M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. have paid Rs. 10 crores each to BSNL. Further, as per interim order of Hon'ble

Supreme Court of India dated 6th February 2006. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has paid Rs. 40 crores to BSNL within a period of four weeks of the order.

(d) Raising of demand for IUC is governed by Interconnect agreement between the operators and dispute is adjudicated as per provision of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act.

Financial burden due to one India Scheme

2112. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL and BSNL propose to launch the One India Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the scheme would put financial burden on the MTNL and BSNL, if so, how do these service providers propose to offset the burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL and BSNL has already launched the "One India Scheme" *w.e.f.* 01.03.2006 as one of the alternative tariff plans which *inter-alia* include charging of long distance calls at a rate of Re. 1/- per minute.

(c) BSNL expects that the "One India Scheme" will result in growth in traffic as well as addition of new subscribers generating additional revenue, off setting the financial burden due to lower rates.

MTNL feels that it is too early to assess the impact on the financial performance.